

A Faithful Response: Speaking Up for Our Neighbors

Many of you have heard about the proposed detention facility being built in the Everglades—commonly called “Alligator Alcatraz.” This news has raised deep concern among people of faith throughout our synod. Whether you lean conservative or liberal, you may feel compelled to respond out of your Christian commitment to uphold human dignity, protect the vulnerable, and care for God’s creation.

In the Florida-Bahamas Synod, we hold space for faithful people with different political perspectives who share a common call to act with compassion. If you feel led to respond, there are faithful ways to do so—grounded in prayer, advocacy, and public witness.

1. Reach Out to Your Elected Leaders

Regardless of your political views, your voice matters. You are encouraged to write, call, or meet with:

- Your Florida State Senator and Representative
 - <https://www.flsenate.gov/senators>
 - <https://www.flhouse.gov/FindYourRepresentative>
- Governor Ron DeSantis’ office
 - <https://www.nga.org/governor/ron-desantis/>
- Your Members of Congress
 - <https://www.house.gov/representatives>
 - <https://www.senate.gov/states/FL/intro.htm>

Share your concerns about how the facility treats migrants, impacts our environment, and respects Indigenous lands. Lift up your desire for humane, safe, and workable solutions that reflect our values as people of faith.

2. Connect with Advocacy Networks that Align with Your Values

Below are a few organizations across the spectrum that can help you learn more, connect with others, and engage in faithful action:

Lutheran-Based Community Resources:

- **ELCA AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities):** www.elca.org/AMMPARO
- **Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS):** www.lirs.org

Organizations Often Engaged by Progressives:

- **American Friends Service Committee (AFSC):** www.afsc.org
- **Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC):** www.cliniclegal.org

Organizations Often Engaged by Conservatives and Evangelicals:

- **National Immigration Forum:** www.immigrationforum.org
- **Evangelical Immigration Table:** www.evangelicalimmigrationtable.com

Each of these groups offers resources and practical tools for how to speak up faithfully and respectfully.

3. Pray, Teach, and Witness Together

Include prayers for migrants and for wise, compassionate leadership in your worship services. Share accurate information in your bulletins, social media, or small groups. If your congregation feels called, draft a public statement rooted in our shared Lutheran values of hospitality, justice, and care for creation.

If you or your congregation would like help connecting with resources, organizing a letter-writing effort, or crafting a faithful statement, please reach out to our synod office. We are here to support you.

May our voices and actions reflect the promise that *“perfect love casts out fear”* (1 John 4:18) and that God’s people are called to love mercy, do justice, and walk humbly in every generation.